



BLACK BOLT™

#2

*"Strong, atmospheric, alive
and bewitchingly strange."*

- Kieron Gillen



MARVEL

**SALADIN AHMED
CHRISTIAN WARD**



is the king of the Inhumans, an off-splinter of humanity imbued with amazing abilities. But these gifts sometimes come with a price: Black Bolt's slightest whisper can shatter mountains. His voice has destroyed many lives, but it has saved countless others.

When the Silent King speaks, the world hears him.

But now no one can hear him. Black Bolt finds himself trapped in a strange alien prison. His treacherous brother, Maximus the Mad, was meant to be the one imprisoned here, but he used his psychic powers and image-altering technology to send Black Bolt in his place.

So far Black Bolt has met two fellow inmates: infamous villain the Absorbing Man, and an alien girl named Blinky. They are all powerless in the hands of the sadistic Jailer, who somehow is able to suppress their abilities. He tortures them until they die—and then resurrects them to face their crimes again and again.

And the Silent King has much for which to atone...

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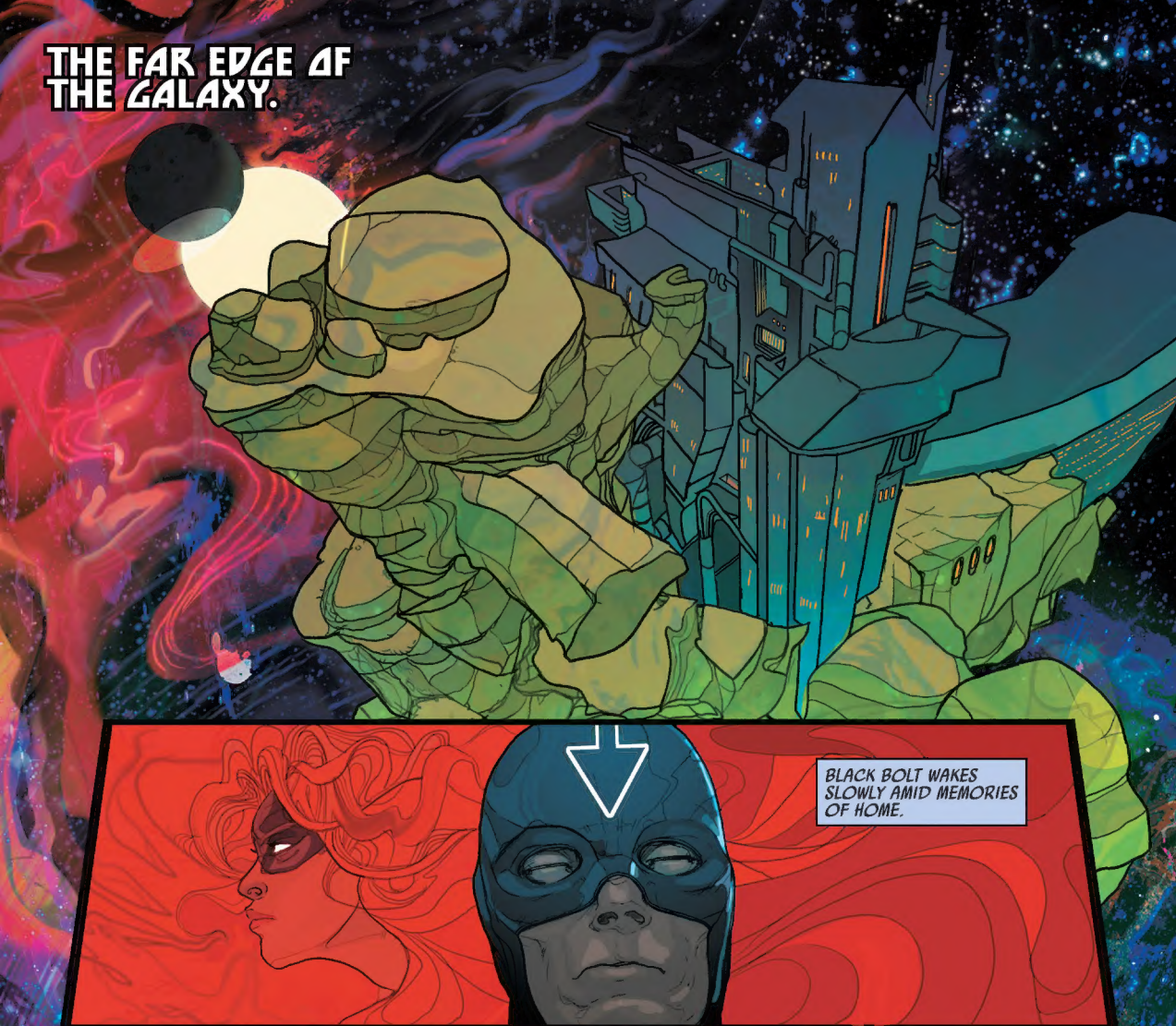
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THE FAR EDGE OF THE GALAXY.



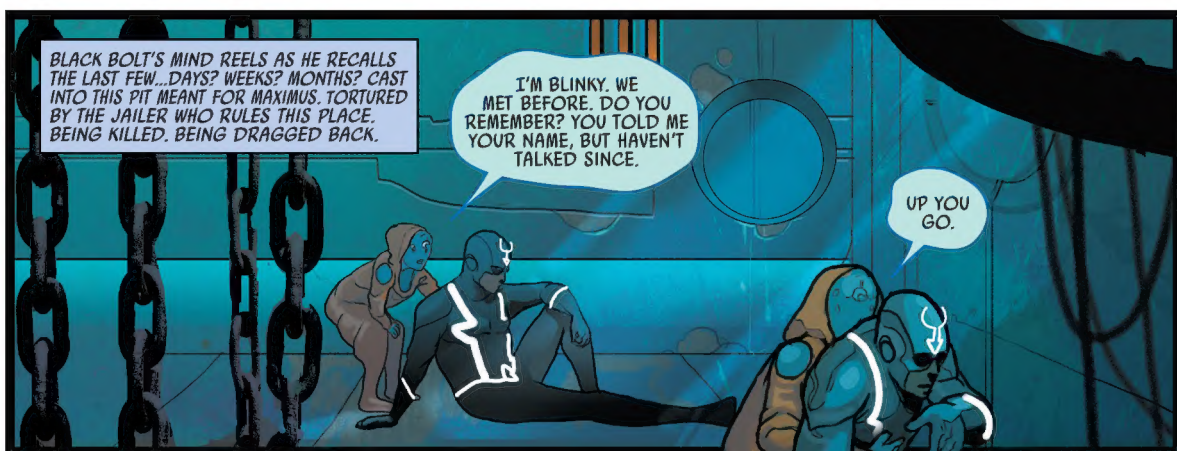
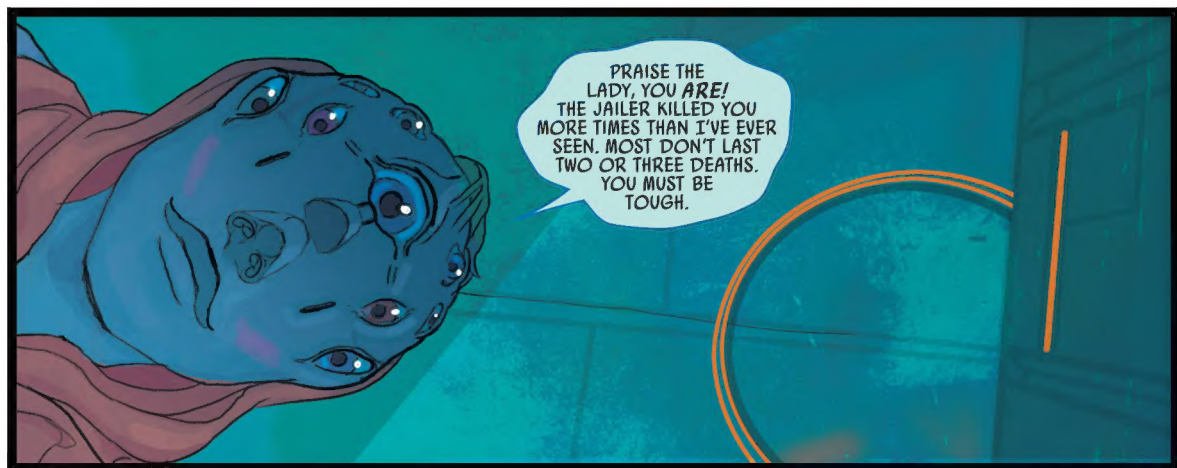
BLACK BOLT WAKES
SLOWLY AMID MEMORIES
OF HOME.



HE IS POWERLESS,
TRAPPED IN A
LIVING HELL.

HE DOES NOT KNOW
HOW LONG HE HAS
BEEN HERE.

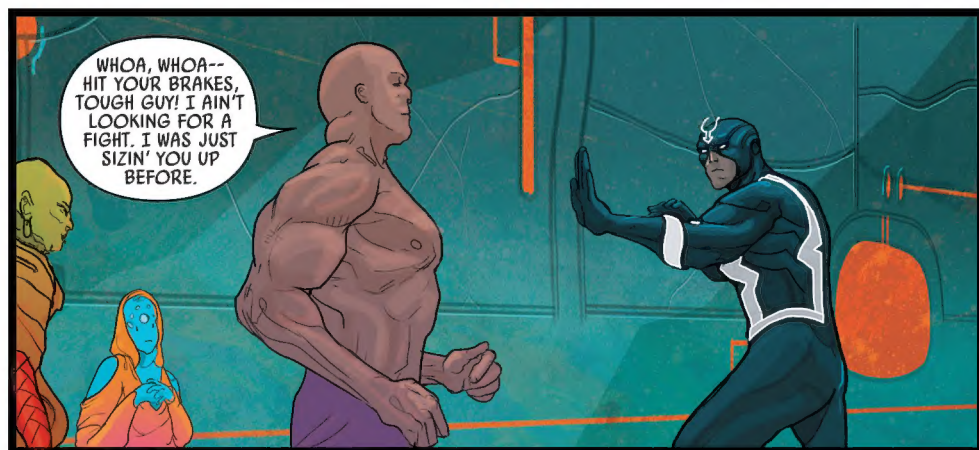
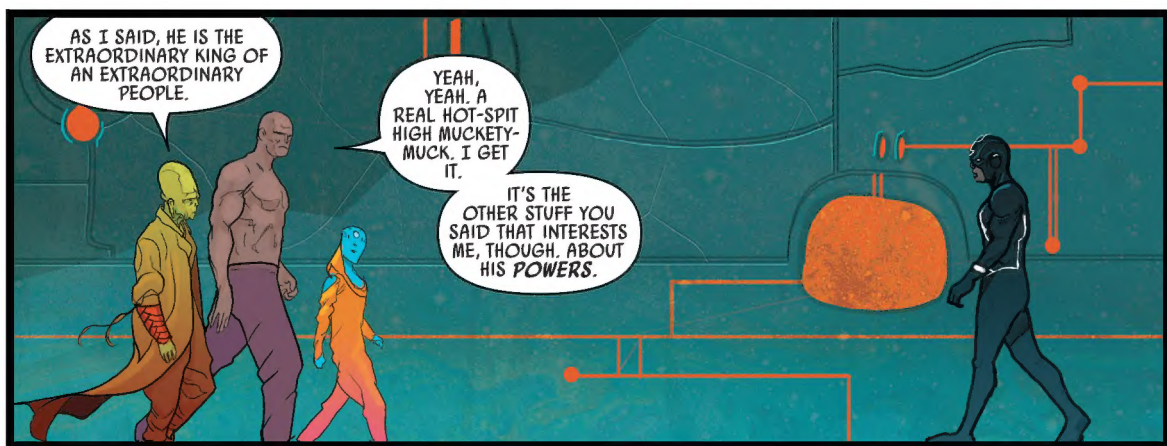
MISTER?
MISTER?
YOU AWAKE
AGAIN?

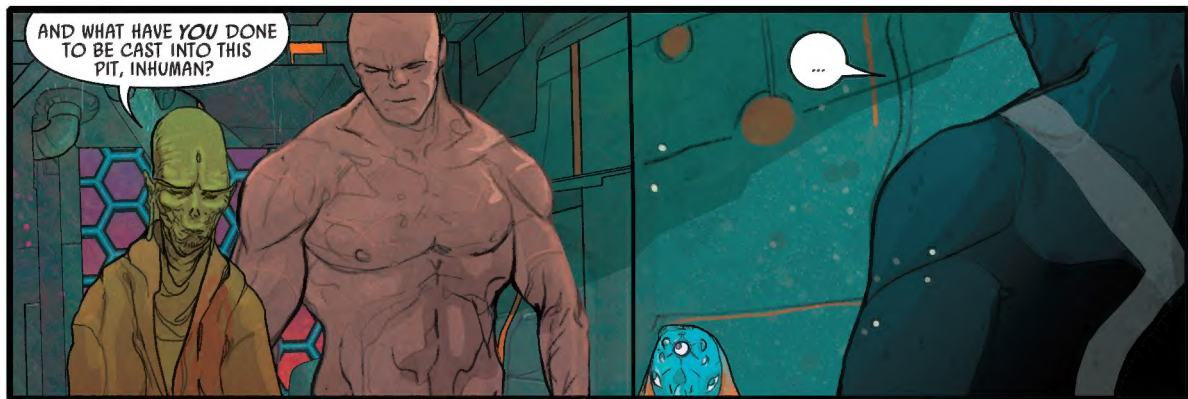




WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED. LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO WERE RIGHT. OL' WISHBONE MADE IT BACK AGAIN.

I TOLD YOU, CRUSHER! I TOLD YOU HE WOULD!











THAT'S
SPYDER. HE WORKS
FOR THE JAILER, BUT
HE'S A PRISONER, TOO. IT'S
HARD TO EXPLAIN. JUST...
JUST DO WHAT
HE SAYS.



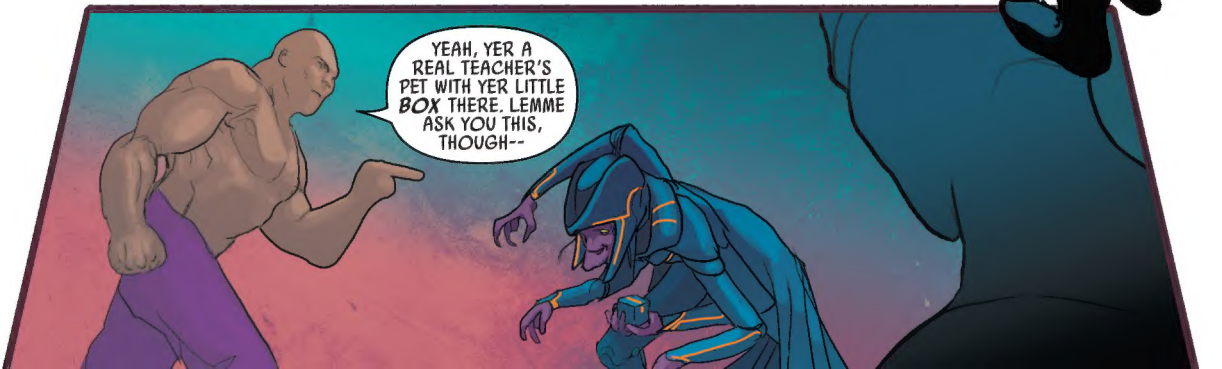
THE CHILD
IS WISSE, NEW
MEAT, YOU SHOULD
LISSTEN TO HER. NOW,
CREEL--YOU WERE
SSSAYING?



I WASN'T
SSSSSSSSAYIN'
ANYTHING TO YOU,
CREEP. PLAY SUCK-UP
ALL YOU WANT, YOU'RE
A PRISONER HERE
SAME AS THE REST
OF US.

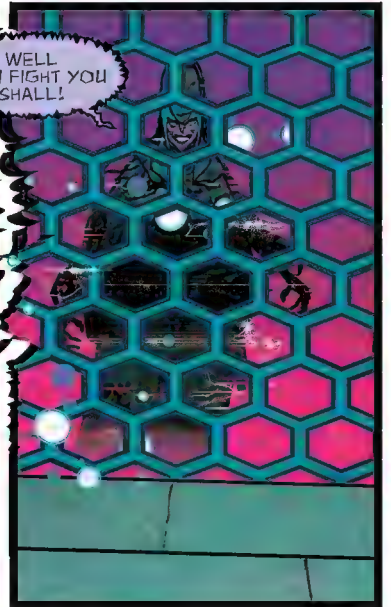
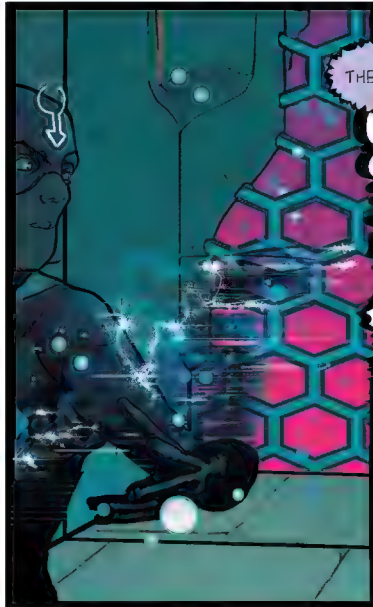


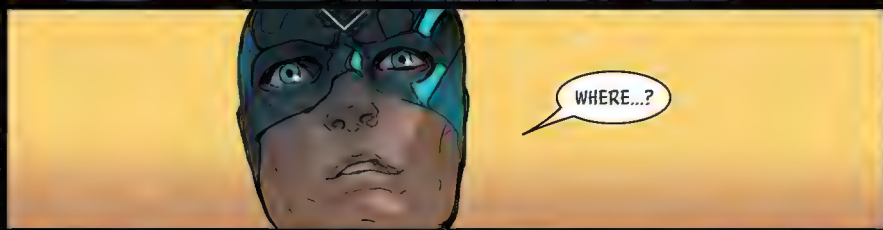
PERHAPSSS.
BUT THE JAILER
AND I HAVE REACHED
CERTAIN...AGREEMENTS.
I PROVIDE SSSERVICESSS,
AND HE PROVIDESSS...
PRIVILEGESSS.



YEAH, YER A
REAL TEACHER'S
PET WITH YER LITTLE
BOX THERE. LEMME
ASK YOU THIS,
THOUGH--







WHERE...?

AN
EARTH MAN? YOU
SEND THIS SKINNY ONE
AGAINST **RAAVA**, SPYDER?
RAAVA COULD SKEWER
THIS ONE IN HER
SLEEP!

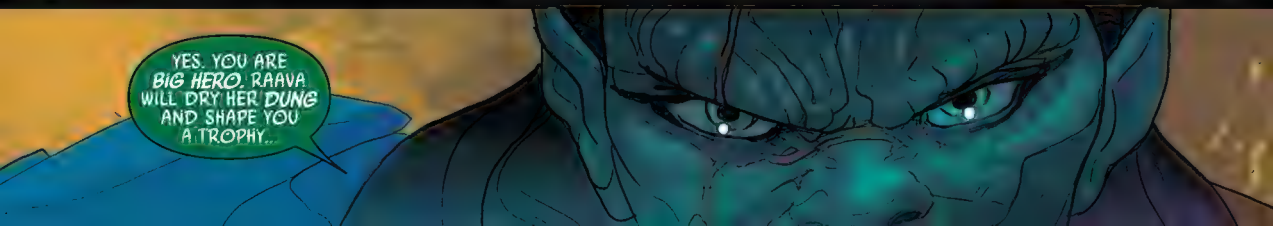


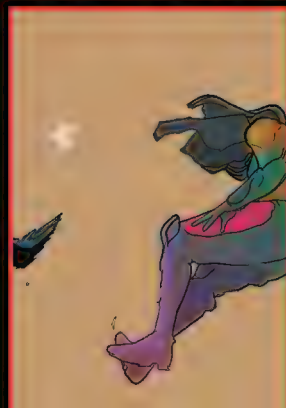
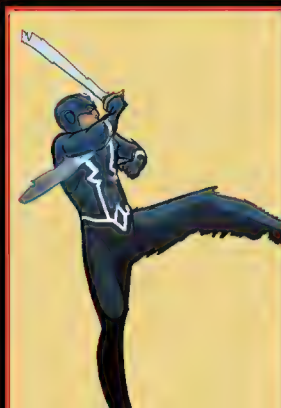
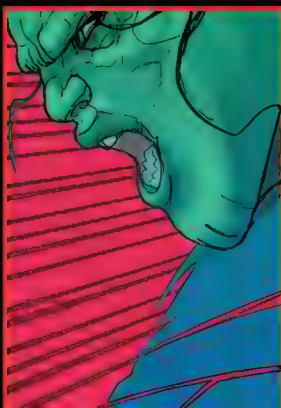
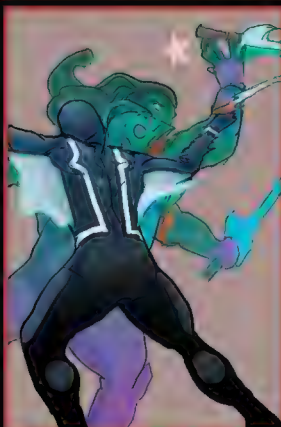
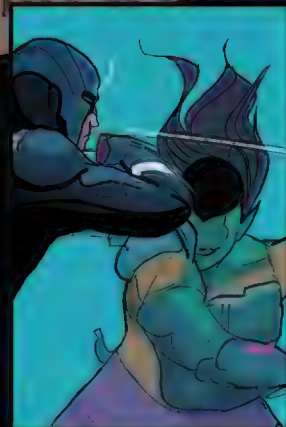
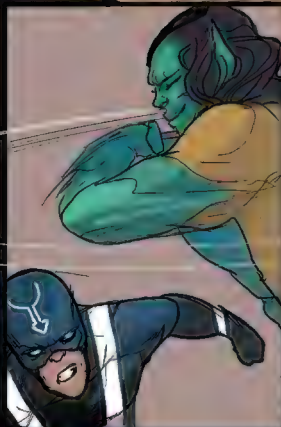
WE SHALL
SSSEE, MY DEAR.
HE ISSS MORE THAN
HE SSSEEMS, THISSS ONE.

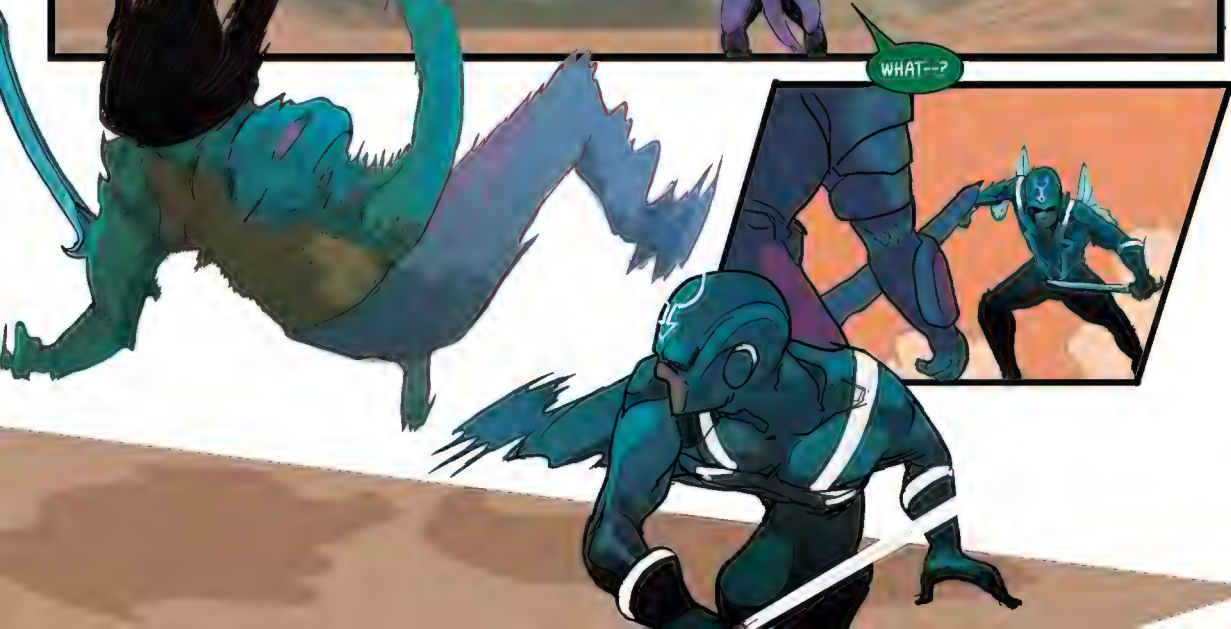
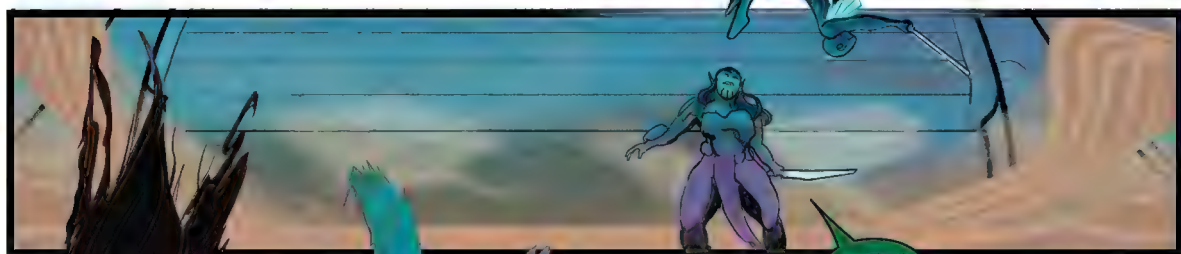
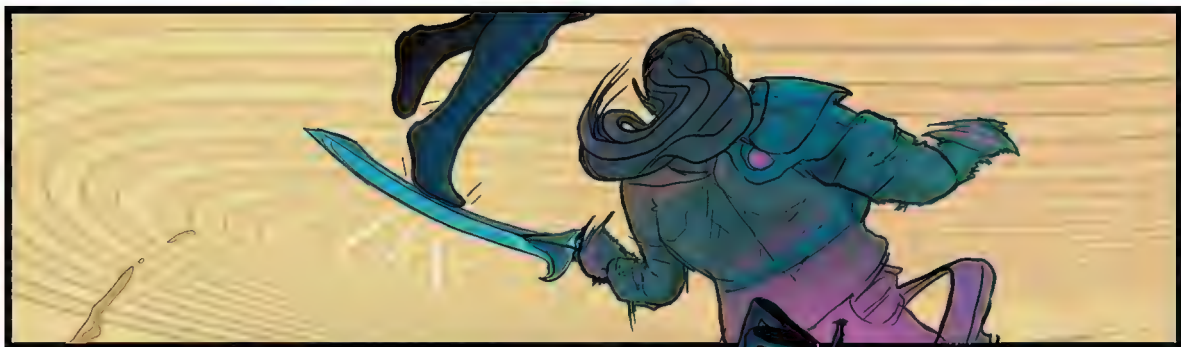
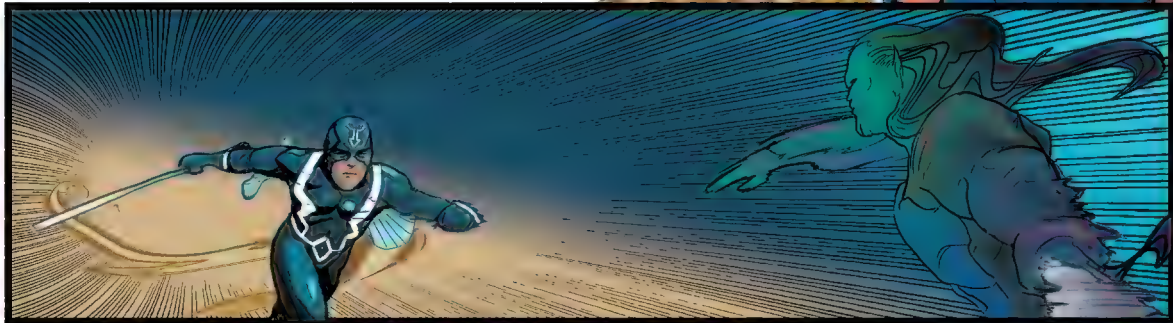
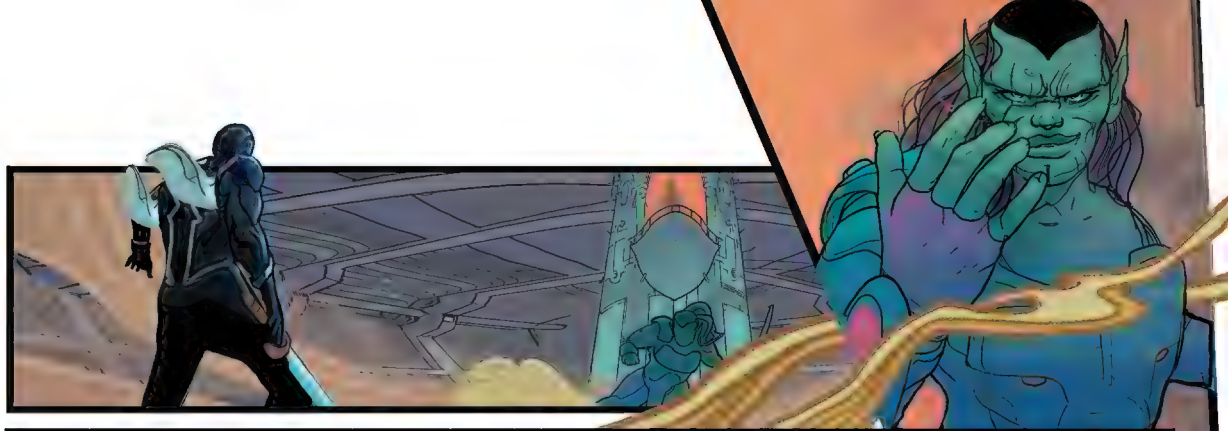
YOUR EMPIRE
CAGED ME ONCE,
SKRULL. TRIED TO USE
ME AS A WEAPON. I KILLED
MANY OF YOUR SOLDIERS.
I HAVE NO WISH TO
KILL YOU, TOO.

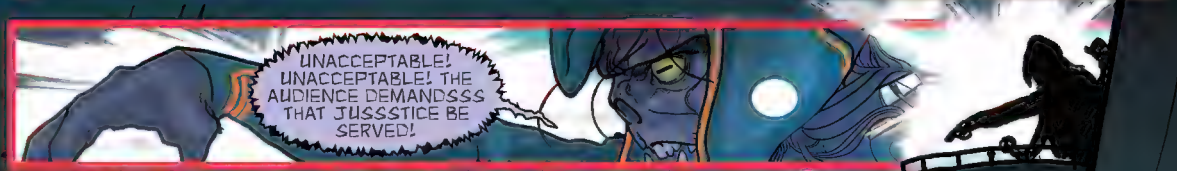
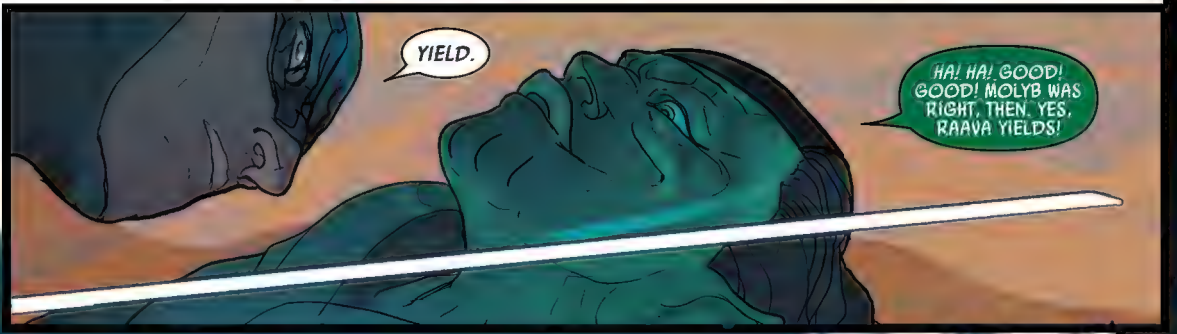
RAAVA'S EMPIRE?
RAAVA'S SOLDIERS? HA!
RAAVA GIVES NOT TWO DROPPINGS
FOR THE EMPIRE. YOU THINK YOURSELF
A HERO FOR SLAYING SOLDIERS?
COWARDS WHO FIGHT BECAUSE
THE EMPIRE WILL KILL THEM
IF THEY DON'T?

YES. YOU ARE
BIG HERO. RAAVA
WILL DRY HER DUNG
AND SHAPE YOU
A TROPHY...

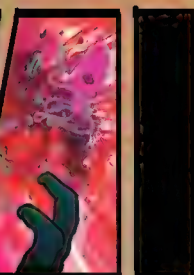
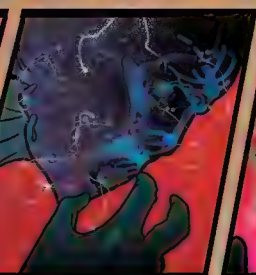
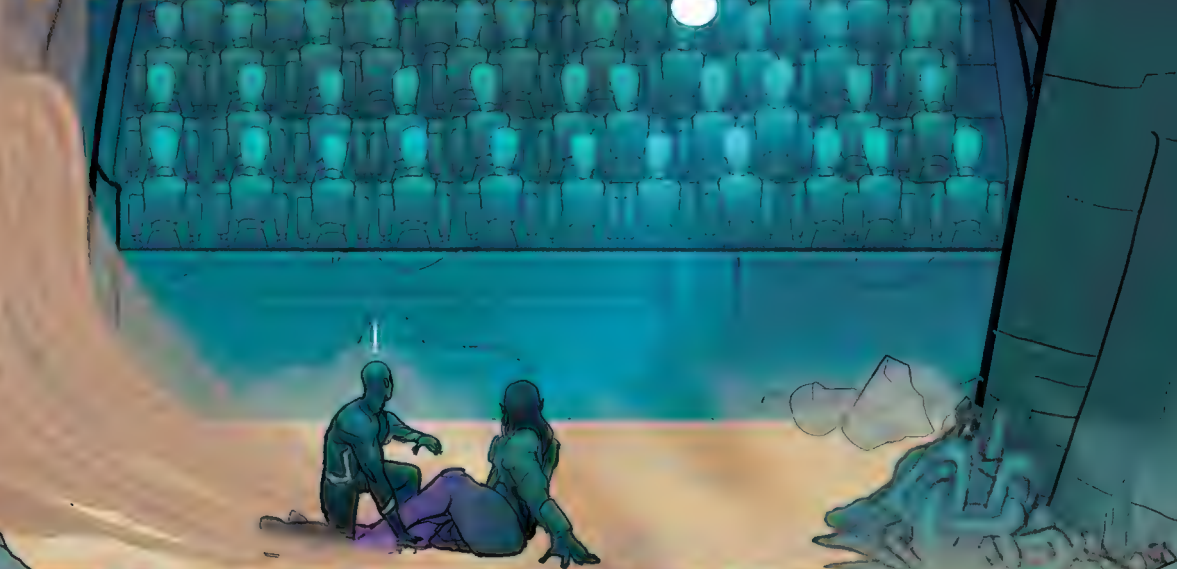


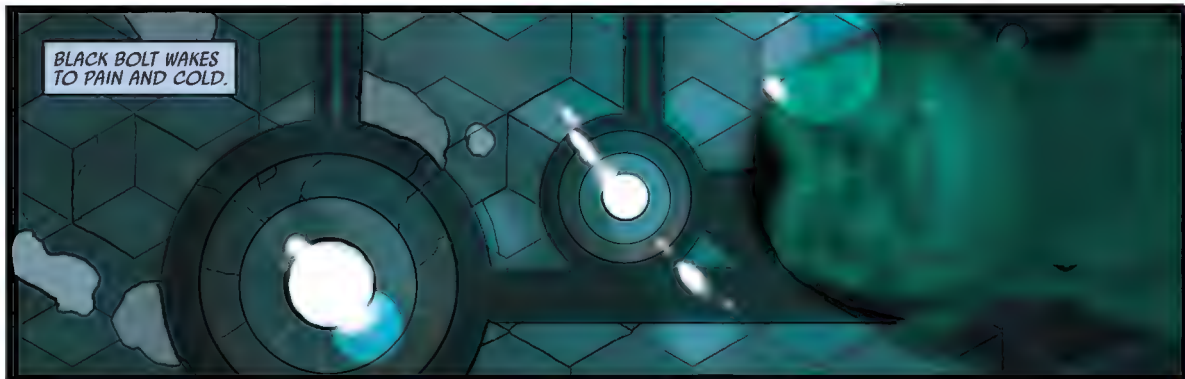






**EXECUTE HER!
EXECUTE HER!**

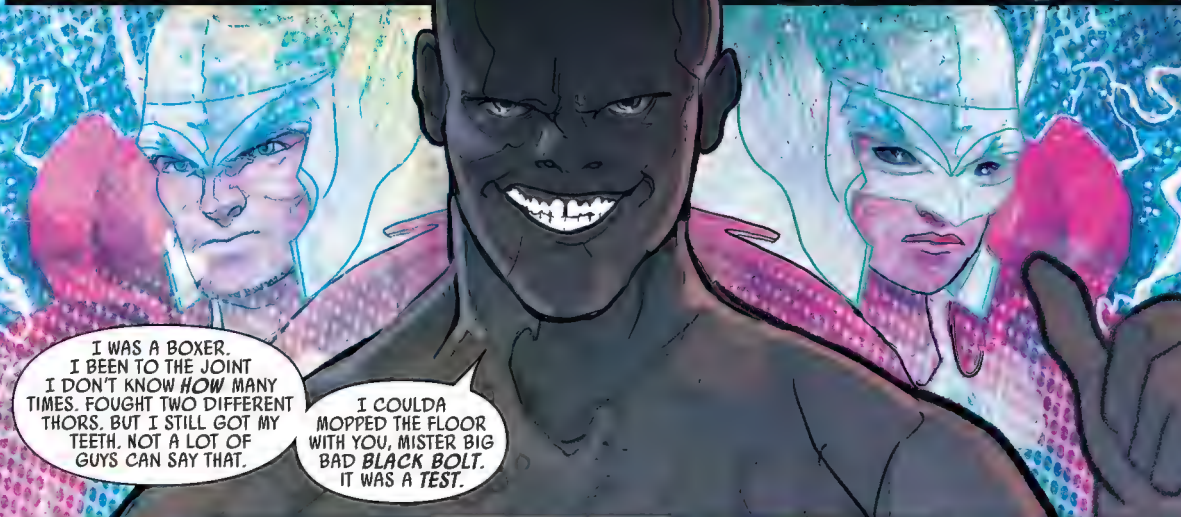






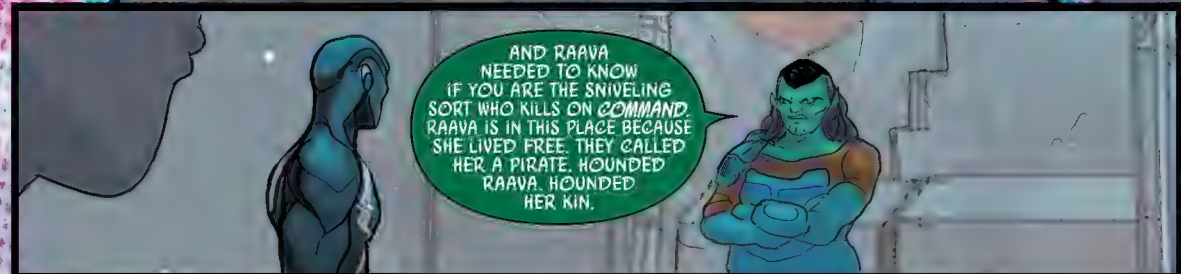
LEMME SHOW YOU
SOMETHING, *WISHBONE*--
I STILL GOT ALL MY TEETH.
YOU NOTICE THAT?

I...DID
NOT.



I WAS A BOXER.
I BEEN TO THE JOINT
I DON'T KNOW *HOW* MANY
TIMES. FOUGHT TWO DIFFERENT
THORS. BUT I STILL GOT MY
TEETH. NOT A LOT OF
GUYS CAN SAY THAT.

I COULDA
MOPPED THE FLOOR
WITH YOU, MISTER BIG
BAD *BLACK BOLT*.
IT WAS A TEST.

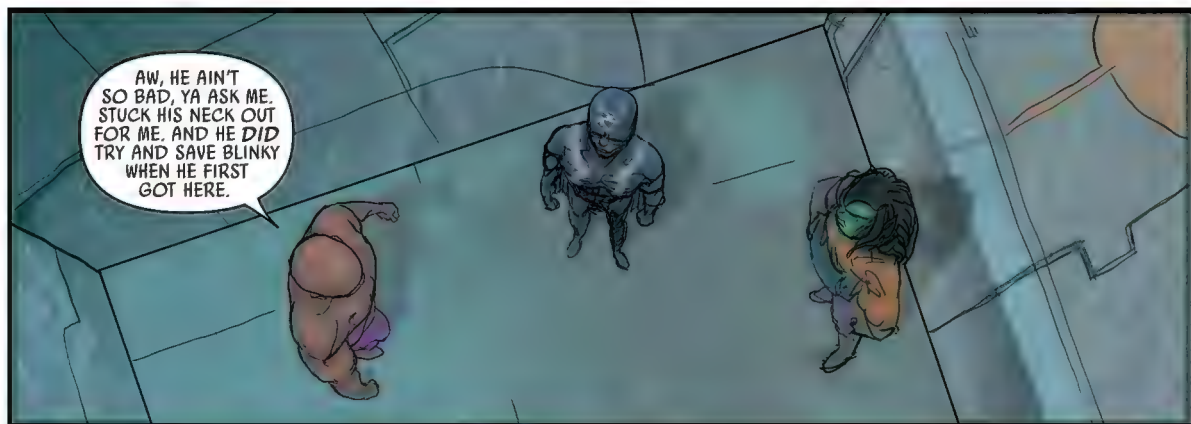


AND *RAAVA*
NEEDED TO KNOW
IF YOU ARE THE SNIVELING
SORT WHO KILLS ON *COMMAND*.
RAAVA IS IN THIS PLACE BECAUSE
SHE LIVED FREE. THEY CALLED
HER A PIRATE. HOUNDED
RAAVA. HOUNDED
HER KIN.



THEY TOOK
RAAVA'S FIRST CHILD,
SKRAGG, FROM HER. THEY TOOK
HER SECOND CHILD, *RAAVAKA*. MEN
WITH LAWS AND THREATS OF CAGES
TOOK *RAAVA*'S BLOODKIN UNTIL
SHE COULD BIRTH NO MORE. SO
RAAVA TOOK BLOOD BACK.
RAAVA GAVE BIRTH
TO *CARNAGE*.

UNTIL THEY USED
THEIR LAWS TO THROW HER
INTO THIS CAGE. AND *RAAVA*
WONDERS WHETHER *YOU* ARE A
FREE MAN--OR A MAN OF
LAWS AND CAGES.



AW, HE AIN'T SO BAD, YA ASK ME. STUCK HIS NECK OUT FOR ME. AND HE *DID* TRY AND SAVE BLINKY WHEN HE FIRST GOT HERE.

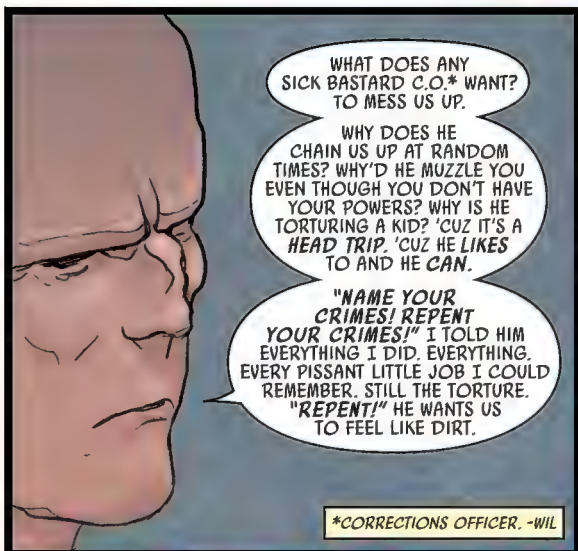


SEE, I MIGHT BE A CROOK, BUT I AIN'T A **MONSTER**.

I TRIED TO SAVE BLINKY, TOO, WHEN THE JAILER PUT ME THROUGH IT. THEN HE KILLED ME AND BROUGHT ME BACK.

I TRIED TO SAVE THE KID AGAIN. THEN I REALIZED HE *LIKES* IT. WATCHING US TRY. DANGLING A LITTLE HOPE, THEN YANKING IT AWAY. SICK BASTARD.

BUT WHO IS HE? WHAT DOES HE WANT?



WHAT DOES ANY SICK BASTARD C.O.* WANT? TO MESS US UP.

WHY DOES HE CHAIN US UP AT RANDOM TIMES? WHY'D HE MUZZLE YOU EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR POWERS? WHY IS HE TORTURING A KID? 'CUZ IT'S A **HEAD TRIP**. 'CUZ HE *LIKES* TO AND HE CAN.

"NAME YOUR CRIMES! REPENT YOUR CRIMES!" I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING I DID. EVERYTHING. EVERY PISSANT LITTLE JOB I COULD REMEMBER. STILL THE TORTURE. **"REPENT!"** HE WANTS US TO FEEL LIKE DIRT.

*CORRECTIONS OFFICER. -WIL



WELL, I FEEL LIKE DIRT PLENTY OF TIMES ON MY OWN. I DON'T NEED *HIM* FOR THAT.

YOU GET LOCKED UP AND YOU START THINKING--NOT JUST ABOUT WHATEVER B.S. LANDED YOU THERE THAT TIME, BUT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE YOU HURT OVER THE YEARS. YOU KNOW?



BUT I DO NOT BELONG HERE. I AM NOT A CRIMINAL!



BUT US
BUMS, WE BELONG
HERE, HUH?

LOOK, METAL
MASTER SAYS YOU'RE
A KING. I GUESS YOU MUST
THINK YOU'RE SOMETHIN' SPECIAL.
YOU PROBABLY NEVER HAD TO
BREAK A GUY'S JAW TO
PUT FOOD ON THE
TABLE.

BUT DON'T
TRY AND TELL
ME YOU AIN'T KILLED
PEOPLE. I BEEN IN THIS
LIFE LONG ENOUGH, I
CAN PRACTICALLY
SMELL IT ON
A GUY.

AND
YOU, BUDDY?
YOU FLIPPIN'
REEK.



I...I HAVE
HURT PEOPLE.
TOO MANY PEOPLE.
AND I HAVE
KILLED.

BUT I
HAVE NEVER BEEN
A MURDERER.

YEAH, WELL, TOE-MAY-TO TOE-MAH-TO.
LIKE I SAY, WISHBONE, I KNOW A
KILLER WHEN I SEE ONE. AND METAL
MASTER SAYS YOU'RE JUST THE
KILLER WE NEED TO
HELP US.

RAAVA DOES
NOT TRUST YOUR METTLE,
EARTHER. BUT SHE HAS FEW
OPTIONS, AND THIS IS THE BEST
OF THEM. WE WOULD ESCAPE
THIS FOUL PLACE. ARE
YOU WITH US?



HE IS BLACK BOLT, A KING OF THE PUREST
BLOODLINE. THEY ARE MURDERERS AND
THIEVES. CRIMINALS.

BUT NO CRIME DESERVES
THE PUNISHMENTS OF THIS
PLACE. AND THEY ARE ALL
THAT HE HAS.

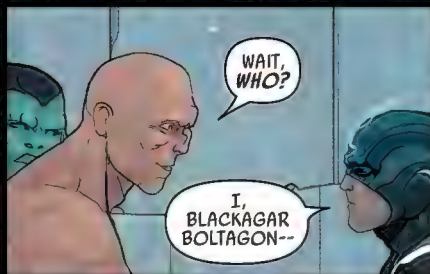


BLACKAGAR
BOLTAGON
STANDS WITH
YOU.



WAIT,
WHO?

I,
BLACKAGAR
BOLTAGON--





TO BE CONTINUED...

SOUND OFF!

We want to hear from you! Send your emails to mheroes@marvel.com and please mark them "OKAY TO PRINT."

What an ending! Will Black Bolt and his odd companions get out of this place of torture? Will his mountain-shattering voice return to him? WILL he marry Raava? Only time--and issue #3--will tell! To tide you over until next month, our incredible writer-artist team sat down to answer a few of your many letters. And I mean many. We love it. Keep 'em coming, and join us next month for...the BREAKOUT!

I just got done reading the first issue of BLACK BOLT, and I loved it! I especially loved the inclusion of Absorbing Man. One thing I've always loved is when writers aren't afraid to have two Marvel characters interact with each other who don't run in the same circles and normally wouldn't have anything to do with one another.

I've always had a fascination with the Midnight King and can't wait to see where Mr. Ahmed takes him next!

My suggestion for the letters page name is simply "Echoes."

Thanks!
Mike Gomez

SALADIN: Thanks, Mike! Crusher's been a favorite of mine for many years, so it's been a blast writing him. And the contrast between he and Black Bolt is only going to get more interesting...

Hey guys, just want to let you know I loved the heck out of BLACK BOLT #1. This is yet another gem from you guys that checked off all the right boxes for me. I've loved Christian Ward's art since INFINITE VACATION, and I'm glad to see he's still able to dish out amazing psychedelic pages. This one is for Saladin Ahmed, though. I'm so glad to see a new writer such as yourself being given a chance on such a risky endeavor. You really knocked it out of the park with the narration of Black Bolt's wonderfully terrible predicament. Please keep writing--you're doing a fantastic job. Hope to see more fantastically fun and bizarre books like this in Marvel's future.

Thanks, Saladin and Christian!

Ricky Castro
Tucson, AZ

SALADIN: Thanks so much, Ricky! I've been VERY lucky as a first-time comics writer to be surrounded by a great team. We're definitely trying something a bit different with this book, and it's awesome to hear from readers who are hungry for that!

CHRISTIAN: Thanks, Ricky! I've been very lucky working on my debut Marvel comic with Saladin and our editors Wil, Charles and Sarah. They're the best collaborators I could wish for. I can tell you that

NONE of the psychedelia is being watered down, and trust me when I say there's even more to come!

To the BLACK BOLT team,

When I saw that Black Bolt was getting his own series in an ad a few months back, I knew I'd be reading it. He's one of my favorite characters--the idea of having a character in a medium like comics who is effectively mute fascinated me, and his backstory makes him all the more intriguing. Having read the first issue my only disappointment is that it ended.

First off, I liked the artwork a lot. The colors popped, and the cover is one of the best I've seen in a long time (brilliantly simple), but most importantly it's expressive. Even with just his eyes and gestures, you can tell how Black Bolt is feeling and how tired he is, no words necessary--an important quality for obvious reasons. Full marks for Christian Ward.

This is one series I won't be dropping--very interested to see where it goes. I'll be there as per usual on day one for issue #2.

Tom Andrews
Bedford, England

CHRISTIAN: Thanks, Tom! As much as I love all the big cosmic moments, a big part of why I wanted to work with Saladin on BLACK BOLT was the challenge of conveying all of Bolt's thoughts and feelings through his body language and expressions. I'm thrilled you like what I'm doing. If I were Black Bolt, you'd be seeing a big toothy grin right now.

To the BLACK BOLT team,

I'm not going to lie, I wasn't sure if I would enjoy a book where the protagonist would only be speaking once or twice per issue, but I was blown away. The art and narration were fantastic and the page where Black Bolt breaks his shackles blew me away--I'm in for the long haul now. When Black Bolt eventually (hopefully) escapes from the prison, will we be seeing him interact with the Royal Family, or will he be doing more solo stuff?

From the newest addition to the Black Bolt

Fan Club,
Drew Curto
Chicopee, MA

SALADIN: I'm afraid that would be telling, Drew! But while the future is always shrouded in mystery, I can say that for a little stretch at least we're going to be up close and personal with Black Bolt, away from his people and having to define himself in new ways.

Disclaimer: I've never written to a comic writer before and I don't really know how it works quite yet, so this will kinda be a test.

After reading BLACK BOLT #1, I couldn't

get my mind off of it. Everything just clicked with me. The lettering, the art, the cover and the story were all pitch perfect. I guess you could say that the book hit every right note. Every aspect was like a choir screaming out to me, "THIS BOOK IS AMAZING!!" It really struck a chord with me, and I'm excitedly anticipating the encore. I'm hoping it gets major amounts of attention. (I got pretty excited about the puns.) Overall I've haven't really followed the Inhumans and their lore, though this book has peaked my interests. I would love to hear what the Inhumans mean to you. What is your history with them? What do you love about them?

Thank you for your time.

Zander da' Ma

SALADIN: Thank you so much for writing, Zander! Growing up, I was always aesthetically fascinated by the Inhumans' bizarreness, though I wasn't as familiar with them as I was with some other Marvel characters. What I love about the Inhumans--the Royal Family in particular--is that they are basically a high fantasy dynasty in the middle of a superhero universe. That makes for all sorts of glorious weirdness, but also allows a writer to pose some great questions about tradition and power and change. Questions that will be coming up in this very book...

That's all the room we have this month! But I want to give a special shout-out to Ef Sakarellos and Thomas Monk, who both suggested **SOUND OFF** for our letters-page title. Congrats, you lucky bolts--you picked a winner! We received a huge outpouring of support for BLACK BOLT #1, and it was hard to choose among the wealth of suggestions! Here are some of the runners-up:

- Dynamic Range (from Andre Jeremiah)
- Fade to Black (from Ernest Hansen)
- King's News (from Kayo Vinicius)
- The Bolt Print (from Joseph Corallo)
- The King's Comments (from Julian Scala)
- Readers' Voice (from Roni Kaufman)
- Boltagrams (from Christopher Hoover)
- Black Notes (from Calvin Lark)
- The Silent Ward (from Jaleel Kahn)
- Midnight Writers (from Kevin Sims)
- Voice to the Voiceless (from John)
- The Silent Domain (from Christian Lopez)

Nobody appreciates a shout-out like Black Bolt, so keep writing in!

Til next month,
Associate Editor Sarah Brunstad

NEXT:
BLACK BOLT
#3



SECRET WARRIORS #3



ROYALS #4



SECRET WARRIORS #4



• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH